

How to write a scientific conclusion

What question were we trying to answer?

“What happens to a ray of light if we shine it at a block of glass?”

“Is the angle of incidence the same as the angle of refraction when the light goes into and comes out of a glass block?”

1. Answer the question in a general way

Use the words from the question in your answer if possible:

“When I shine light at the block of glass, it changes direction. The angle of incidence and the angle of refraction are not the same”

2. Provide evidence from your observations or tests.

- Give quantitative data (measurements from your results).

“For example, when the light goes in to the glass block with a 45⁰ angle of incidence, the angle of refraction was only 30⁰.

But when the light comes out of the glass block, the angle of incidence was only 30⁰ and the angle of refraction was 45⁰”

3. Make a concluding statement that is based on the evidence:

- Try to use more general words, don't use numbers (for example, more/less; bigger/smaller; brighter/dimmer).

“Therefore, when the light goes in to the glass block, the angle of incidence is bigger than the angle of refraction. And when the light comes out of the glass block, the angle of incidence is smaller than the angle of refraction.”

4. Make an inference about what you think caused these results:

“I think this happens because the glass makes the light ray change speed, and this makes it change direction .”

5. If you had data that were different from what other groups had, what do you think could have caused these results?

6. What other questions do you have now that you want to investigate?